

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND GOSPEL RENEWAL

Sixth Sunday of Lent—Palm Sunday

24 March 2013

Worship Notes

This morning in Luke 9 we move through three stories in which Jesus confronts and confounds the expectations of the disciples as to whom He is—a humble servant rather than a political or cultural leader. It is this same image that we see of Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem while palm branches are strewn and the children sing out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

We begin the service with the children’s choirs leading us in the Prelude and the Introit. Our opening hymns are **All Glory, Laud, and Honor** and **We Will Glorify**. Following confession, we will sing **Rock of Ages**—humbly acknowledging our complete dependence on the blood of Christ and nothing that we can do.

Our first Communion Hymn is **Because You Are Chosen** with the words from Colossians, “You must clothe yourself with kindness, with heartfelt mercy, in the meekness of humility.” We close with the great triumphal hymn, **Lift Up Your Heads** from Psalm 24.

—Greg Wilbur

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into his courts.

Prelude—To God Our King Who Rules Above

To God our King, who rules above, We bring our tribute and our love,
And gladly bow before His throne With angel hosts, whose sweetest tone
Is heard in song of him who sings: Hosanna to the King of kings!

Hosanna to our God! Hosanna to our Lord and King!

Let mountains lift their heads of stone, And join the seas in swelling tone,
To echo back the song we sing Of glory, glory to our King
Who saves us by His precious blood, Oh, sing hosanna to our God!

Announcements & Preparation

Children’s Choir Introit—Zion, At Thy Shining Gates

Zion, at thy shining gates, lo, the King of Glory waits!
Haste thy Monarch’s pomp to greet, strew thy palms before his feet.

Christ, for thee their triple light faith and hope and love united:
this the beacon we display to proclaim thine Advent day.

Come, and give us peace within; loose us from the bands of sin;
take away the galling weight laid on us by greed and hate.

Give us grace thy yoke to wear; give us strength thy cross to bear;
make us thine in deed and word, thine in heart and life, O Lord.

So, when thou shalt come again, judge of angels and of men,
we with all thy saints shall sin alleluias to our King.

Call to Worship—John 12:13, Zechariah 9:9-12

Pastor: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

All: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

All: Behold, your king is coming to you.

Pastor: He is righteous and bears salvation; He is humble and mounted on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hymn of Praise—All Glory, Laud, and Honor

The Children's Choir will sing verse 1. We will respond by singing the rest of the hymn as a congregation.

Verse 1 (Children's Choir):

All glory, laud, and honor to thee, redeemer, King, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal son, who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed One!

The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went; our
Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring, who

praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent: to
in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King! All

thee be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise; to
glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King, to

thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

Profession of Faith—The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of Very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made;
who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and now sits on the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead,
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And we believe in one holy and apostolic Church, both visible and invisible.
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise—We Will Glorify

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will glo - ri - fy the Lamb; We will Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in Maj - es - ty, we will bow be - fore His throne; We will He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, He is Lord of all who live; He is Ho - san - na to the King of kings, Ho - san - na to the Lamb; Ho -". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "glo - ri - fy the Lord of lords, Who ___ is the great I Am. wor - ship Him in right - eous - ness, we will wor - ship Him a - lone. Lord a - bove the u - ni - verse, all ___ praise to Him we give. san - na to the Lord of lords, Who ___ is the great I Am." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Missions Report—Laura Coughlin, Hurricane Relief in New Jersey

The Reading of the Word—Luke 9:46-56

46 An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. 47 But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side 48 and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

49 John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.” 50 But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them. 56 And they went on to another village.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon—The Gospel of Luke, Part 42

The Least is the Greatest

—Nate Shurden, Pastor

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Corporate Confession of Sin

Father God, You adorn the humble with salvation (Ps 149:4) and lead them in what is right—You teach the humble Your ways (Ps 25:9). For You are the King of heaven, all Your works are right and Your ways are just, and You are able to humble those who walk in pride (Dan 4:37). Forgive us for trying to set up our own kingdoms or for trying to shape Your kingdom for our own glory.

Pastor: Father God, listen to the prayers of Your people.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Jesus, You came not to be served but to serve, and to give Your life as a ransom for many (Mt 20:28). You emptied Yourself and took on the form of a servant not counting equality with God as something to be grasped (Phil 2:5-7). May we not be like those who do mighty works in Your name but whom You never knew (Mt 7:21-23). May we serve as those who do the will of the Father.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, listen to the prayers of Your people.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, weave humility into our hearts that we might do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility we would count others more significant than ourselves (Phil 2:3). As God's chosen ones, help us to have compassionate hearts, true kindness, humility and patience, bearing with one another (Col 3:12-13). Humble us under Your mighty hand that at the proper time You may exalt us (1 Pet 5:6).

Pastor: Holy Spirit, listen to the prayers of Your people.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Sung Response—Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy, Lord.

WOMEN
Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

MEN
Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer-cy, have mer-cy, Lord.

Text: Luke 18:13; Music: FRANKLIN KYRIE, Gregory D Wilbur, 2009. ©2009 Greyfriars Press.

Assurance of Pardon—from Romans 7:25-8:1; I Timothy 1:2; I Thessalonians 5:23

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. And now grace, mercy, and peace are yours from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. The God of peace Himself will sanctify you completely so that your whole spirit and soul and body may be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Praise—Rock of Ages



Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
Not the la - bor of my hands Can ful - fill Thy — law's de-mands;
Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy — cross I cling;
While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eyes shall — close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no re - spite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less look to thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and — power.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
foul, I to the Foun-tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I — die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in — Thee.

CCLI #11121087 © 1985, Music Anno Domini. Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, Alt Thomas Cotterill, 1815;
Music: NEW CITY FELLOWSHIP, James Ward. 1984.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

God offers to His people the gift of communion with Him through the grace of the sacrament and we respond in thanksgiving.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Sung Response—Holy God We Praise Your Name, Vs 4

Ho - ly Fath - er, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name You;
While in es - sence onl - y One, Un - di - vid - ed God we claim You; And a -
dor - ing bend the knee, While we sing this my - ster - y.

Text: Based on *Te Deum*, 4th c., Attr Ignace Franz, 1774; Music: GROSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774.

Words of Institution and the Lord's Table

Having confessed our sins and made a good profession of faith, God's Table is open to all those "faithfully-fenced" members of the covenant community. Please come forward to partake of this means of grace. You may take the bread at the first table and then proceed to either side for the wine/grape juice.

Hymn of Communion—Because You Are Chosen

Be - cause you are cho-sen, — called to be ho-ly, — be-cause you
are the Lord's — be-lov - ed, you must clothe your-self with kind-ness, —
with heart-felt mer - cy, in the meek-ness of hu - mil - i - ty. — So —
bear — you now with one an - oth - er — and for-give as the Lord's for-giv - en you. —
— o-ver all — these vir - tues, — bind them all to - geth - er
in the Love of our Lord Je - - - - sus.

Hymn of Communion—Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Come, my Way, my Truth, — my Life: Such a
Come, my Light, my Feast, — my Strength: Such a
Come, my Joy, my Love, — my Heart: Such a

way as gives — us breath; Such a truth as ends all
light as shows — a feast, Such a feast as mends in
joy as none — can move, Such a love as none can

strife, Such a life as kill — — — — — eth death.
length, Such a strength as makes — — — — — his guest.
part, Such a heart as joys — — — — — in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1633: Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1911.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise—Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; Be - hold, the
 A Help - er just He comes to thee, His char - iot
 O blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 Re - deem - er, come, with us a - bide; Our hearts to

King of glo - ry waits; The King of kings is
 is hu - - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
 Thee we op - en wide; Let us Thy in - ner

draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here!
 ho - li - - - ness, His scept - er, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heaven's em - - - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pre - sence feel; Thy grace and love in us re - veal.

Text: Psalm 24, Georg Weissel, 1642, Tr by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; Music: TRURO, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Hosannas to the King (Revelation 7:9-12)

Pastor: “I looked, and behold, there was a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes. And they all had palm branches in their hands.”

All: They cried out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Pastor: And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

All: They said, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Sung Response—We Will Glorify

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - san - na to the King of kings, Ho - san - na to the Lamb; Ho -". The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: "san - na to the Lord of lords, Who — is the great I Am." The music features a simple, rhythmic melody in the treble clef and a supporting bass line in the bass clef.

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HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Randy Allen, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays 5:30 p.m., Brook’s house.

Chuck Emerson, 2nd and 4th Sundays 5:00 p.m., Steffens’ house.

Cy Fenton, Sundays after church, Fentons or Hensleys.

Stacy McGuire, Sundays after church, upstairs at Cornerstone.

Greg Wilbur & Matt Michaud, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays at 5:30 p.m., Wilbur’s house.

Jim Smith, 2nd and 4th Sundays at 6:00 p.m., Smith’s house.

Today we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to the sound of Hosannas and the waving of palm branches. But as Jesus comes in like a king, he rides in, not on a white horse, but a lowly donkey. This is how Jesus comes to us—humbly. Though the King of Kings, the true Son of David, he came not to be served but to serve and to give his

life as a ransom for many.

The disciples had a hard time understanding this. In Luke 9:46-56, the disciples argue over who is the greatest, try to stop a man doing exorcisms because he's not one of the twelve, and they request that fire be brought down on a village that rejects Jesus. In all three cases, Jesus leads them—and us—to a better, humbler way.

- How did the presence and reception of a child by Jesus diffuse the argument among the disciples over whom is the greatest (v.46-48)? How do you need to know and apply these words of Jesus to your life right now?
- What does Jesus mean when he says, "For he who is least among you all is the one who is great" (v.48)? How might Christ be leading our community to confession and repentance with these words?
- When the disciples tried to stop a man from performing an exorcism because he was not one of the twelve, Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."
 - What does this mean?
 - How might we apply this teaching to our church or the ministry context of Franklin, TN?
- In verse 53, we're told the Samaritan village did not receive Jesus because his face was set toward Jerusalem. Discuss why Jesus' focus on Jerusalem would lead to people rejecting him. How do these words help us understand why Jesus is often rejected today?

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All Scripture quotations from the English Standard Version